

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FERREIRA

Plaintiff,

v.

CHABOT COLLEGE,

Defendant.

No. C-08-2264 CW

ORDER PROVIDING  
NOTICE TO PRO SE  
PLAINTIFF OF  
REQUIREMENTS FOR  
OPPOSING MOTION  
FOR SUMMARY  
JUDGMENT

Defendant has informed the Court of Defendant's intention to file a summary judgment motion in this case. If Defendant chooses to file the motion, Defendant must do so by serving Plaintiff with a notice of the motion and a copy of the motion, indicating the time of the scheduled hearing on the motion. Defendant must do so at least 35 days before the date of the hearing. Plaintiff's opposition, including any supporting documents, must be filed by 21 days before the date of the hearing. Defendant's reply to Plaintiff's opposition, should Defendant choose to file one, is due 14 days before the hearing.

1 The Ninth Circuit in Klinge v. Eikenberry, 849 F.2d 409,  
2 411-12 (9th Cir. 1988), held that when a Defendant in a case  
3 involving a pro se Plaintiff moves for summary judgment, the  
4 district court must inform the Plaintiff of his or her rights and  
5 obligations under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.  
6 See also Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 1998)(*en banc*)  
7 (the Klinge notice must be phrased in understandable language  
8 aimed at apprising Plaintiff of rights and obligations under Rule  
9 56).<sup>1</sup>

10 Rule 56 of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure governs summary  
11 judgment motions. A summary judgment motion is a request for an  
12 order of judgment, without a trial, in favor of the party bringing  
13 the motion, Defendant here. In such a motion, the party moving for

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15 <sup>1</sup>The advice required by the 9th Circuit in prisoner pro se cases is as  
follows:

16 The Defendant has made a motion for summary judgment by which  
17 Defendant seeks to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary  
18 judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if  
granted, end your case.

19 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for  
20 summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there  
21 is no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute  
22 about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who  
asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law,  
23 which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for  
summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other  
24 sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says.  
Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions,  
25 answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in  
Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the Defendant's  
26 declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of  
material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in  
27 opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you.  
If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will  
be no trial.

28 Rand, 154 F.3d at 963.

1 summary judgment presents the facts that are not disputed and  
2 argues that these facts entitle it to judgment as a matter of law.  
3 In other words, Defendant will be arguing that there does not need  
4 to be a trial in the case against it because undisputed facts show  
5 that they are entitled to a judgment in their favor.

6 The relevant parts of Rule 56 are as follows:

7 (c) Motion and Proceedings Thereon. The motion shall  
8 be served at least 10 days before the time fixed for the  
9 hearing. The adverse party prior to the day of hearing  
10 may serve opposing affidavits. The judgment sought shall  
11 be rendered forthwith if the pleadings, depositions,  
12 answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file,  
13 together with the affidavits, if any, show that there is  
14 no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the  
15 moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law.  
16 A summary judgment, interlocutory in character, may be  
17 rendered on the issue of liability alone although there is  
18 a genuine issue as to the amount of damages.

19 . . . . .

20 (e) Form of Affidavits; Further Testimony; Defense  
21 Required. Supporting and opposing affidavits shall be  
22 made on personal knowledge, shall set forth such facts as  
23 would be admissible in evidence, and shall show  
24 affirmatively that the affiant is competent to testify to  
25 the matters stated therein. Sworn or certified copies of  
26 all papers or parts thereof referred to in an affidavit  
27 shall be attached thereto or served therewith. The court  
28 may permit affidavits to be supplemented or opposed by  
depositions, answers to interrogatories, or further  
affidavits. When a motion for summary judgment is made  
and supported as provided in this rule, an adverse party  
may not rest upon the mere allegations or denials of the  
adverse party's pleading, but the adverse party's  
response, by affidavits or as otherwise provided in this  
rule, must set forth specific facts showing that there is  
a genuine issue for trial. If the adverse party does not  
so respond, summary judgment, if appropriate, shall be  
entered against the adverse party.

29 . . . . .

30 (g) Affidavits Made in Bad Faith. Should it appear  
31 to the satisfaction of the court at any time that any of  
32 the affidavits presented pursuant to this rule are  
33 presented in bad faith or solely for the purpose of delay,

1 the court shall forthwith order the party employing them  
2 to pay to the other party the amount of the reasonable  
3 expenses which the filing of the affidavits caused the  
4 other party to incur, including reasonable attorney's  
fees, and any offending party or attorney may be adjudged  
guilty of contempt.

5 Rule 56 (emphasis added).

6 Although the actual text of Rule 56, cited above, controls in  
7 any dispute as to its interpretation, the Court provides the  
8 following brief explanation of Plaintiff's rights and obligations  
9 under the Rule: If Plaintiff does not file an opposition  
10 supported by evidence, the Court may enter summary judgment in  
11 favor of Defendant. If Plaintiff does not contradict the  
12 Defendant's evidence with evidence of his or her own, the Court  
13 might take Defendant's evidence as true and enter judgment against  
14 Plaintiff on his or her claims against Defendant. Under Federal  
Rule of Civil Procedure 56(e), the following types of evidence may  
be submitted:

- 15 1. Statements made in the complaint if the complaint (a)  
16 was signed under penalty of perjury and (b) shows  
17 personal knowledge (i.e., "first-hand" or "non-hearsay"  
18 knowledge) of the matters stated;
- 19 2. Affidavits or declarations. Any person signing  
20 an affidavit or declaration must have personal knowledge  
21 of the facts stated. At the end of a declaration or  
22 affidavit, the document must state, "I declare under  
23 penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and  
24 correct," and be signed by the individual who has the  
25 required personal knowledge. Any declarations or  
affidavits that are unsigned will not be considered.
- 26 3. Copies of documents so long as they are submitted with  
27 proof that the records are what they purport to be.

Specifically, Plaintiff must declare under penalty of perjury that the documents are true and correct copies of the documents, and must specify how the documents were obtained; and

4. Transcripts of depositions, answers to interrogatories, or admissions obtained in this proceeding.

To defeat a summary judgment motion, Plaintiff must present evidence that, when viewed together with Defendant's evidence, convinces the Court that his or her claims should go to trial.

If Plaintiff has a good reason why facts are not available to him or her at the time required to oppose the summary judgment motion, the Court may consider a request to postpone ruling on the motion. To support such a request, Plaintiff must provide the Court and opposing counsel with an affidavit or declaration (signed under penalty of perjury) setting forth the reasons the facts are unavailable and indicating how those facts would support his or her claims.

Plaintiff is reminded that if he or she does not file and serve a written opposition with supporting documents or a request to postpone with a supporting affidavit or declaration, the Court may deem this failure to act to be consent to the granting of Defendant's summary judgment motion.

This notice shall constitute the only such notice from the Court concerning the Defendant's summary judgment motion. The Court will not provide any further information regarding the interpretation of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 and will not answer unsolicited questions about the applicable rules of procedure.

1 Dated: 8/12/08

*Claudia Wilken*

CLAUDIA WILKEN  
United States District Judge

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FERREIRA et al,

Case Number: CV08-02264 CW

Plaintiff,

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

v.

CHABOT COLLEGE et al,

Defendant.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on August 20, 2008, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Richard Ferreira  
18349 Robscott Avenue  
Hayward, CA 94541

Dated: August 20, 2008

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk  
By: Sheilah Cahill, Deputy Clerk

United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California